

# Susan Gilchrist

Susan Gilchrist, now retired, has taught in higher education for nearly 50 years. From 1969 she has also been involved in the work of reconciliation in tribal conflict situations. She has engaged in studies and research into the driving forces behind tribal conflict, identity formation and the interactions that are encountered. She has undertaken similar research on gender dysphoria. Susan writes poetry and she has documented her journey in an anthology of poems. Through her counselling involvement she aims to help others who may learn from her experiences. Susan is actively involved in Church of England activities and in ecumenical work. She is currently a committee member and has been secretary of the Sibyls, a Christian Spirituality group for transgender and intersex people, their friends, families and supporters. Susan is closely associated with work to promote the full inclusion of LGBTI people within the Anglican Church. She has acted in an advisory capacity in the context of the Church of England "Shared Conversations" process and in the "Living in Love and Faith" process which has followed. In both cases she has been asked by the organisers of these processes to act as an independent moderator of their results. Together with members of clergy and others Susan was involved in the organisation of a conference in Birmingham in 2010 on "Sexuality and Human Flourishing", the proceedings of which can be accessed through her website. She has served on the executive committee of the LGBTI Anglican Coalition, and is also a past co-chair of the Coalition. Susan has served on Government and NHS Advisory panels. She is a member of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland and is an active member, both in her local Church, and in the congregation of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London.



Susan's own research into the areas of personality development and identity crosses two disciplines. The first of these is a neurophysiological and psychological study into the early development of self-identity and personality. By taking account of the recent advances in neuroscience and brain development; new insights are obtained; and it is shown that a continuous pattern of development can be traced from early infancy into late adult life. The second theme in her work is an extended social, historical and theological study on the implications of this scientific research on the Christian Church. An overview of her work can be found in Gilchrist, S. (2016): *"Taking a Different Path"*: Chapter 10 in: "This Is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians", Ed: Beardsley, T. and O'Brien, M. Publisher: Darton, Longman and Todd. Presentations have been given to NHS Senior Management. A parliamentary submission concerns the topic of gender care pathways. Other papers include one on *"Deuteronomy 22:5 and its Impact on Gender and Sexual Variation in the Christian Church"*: this was given to a Trans\* and Faith Symposium in the University of Warwick. Further papers and a presentation on *"An Overview of Science and Theology in Gender and Sexual Variation and Its Impact on the Christian Church"* were given to the Durham University/Royal College of Psychiatrists Conference on *"Science and Theology in Human Sexuality"* which was held at St. John's College, Durham University in September 2016. More recent papers include. *"The Development of Transgender Behaviour and Identities in Early Life"* (2019), *"Divisions: Self-Declaration and Gender Variant People"* (2019); *The Safeguarding of Transgender Children* (2018); *"A House Built on Sand? Attitudes to Gender and Sexual Variant Identities and Behaviour in Christianity and the Christian Church"* (2017); *Marriage, Sex and Gender* (2017); *"Condemning Sexual Abuse and Welcoming Gender and Sexually Variant People into the Christian Church"* (2017); *"Gender and Sexual Malpractice and Abuse in the Christian Church"* (2017) and *"No, Pope Francis: Gender Identity is not a Choice"* (2017). Susan has also written briefing papers for the Church of England General Synods, and was instrumental in drafting a motion on liturgies for transgender people which has been passed. Details of these and additional papers and presentations which have been made or submitted to senior HNS panels, conferences, parliamentary committees and to other groups are given in her bibliography. As an academic Susan is fully aware of the importance of the peer review process. In addition to the work already published, all of her work has been written up and is fully referenced for publication in peer reviewed journals. She has been, and is, in discussion with publishers about the publication of a book.

Copies of these papers, the presentation slides, additional information and a full bibliography are available via the website: <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/> and on <http://www.tgdr.co.uk/articles/bibliography.htm>  
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